

PRAYERS FOR MORNINGS

Selected by a Lady from Prayer-book Classics

Before they call, I will answer : and while they are yet speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

Prayer has the power of sanctifying life, because it brings God into life. . . .

The morning prayer chimes in with the joy of the creation, with the quick world, as it awakes and sings. Such a prayer is the guard of life.

It makes us conscious of our Father's presence, so that we hear His voice in the hour of our folly and our sin:

"My child, this morning you called Me to your side; do not drive Me away. Bridle that passionate temper, restrain that excitement which is sweeping you beyond the power of will; keep back that foolish word which will sting your neighbour's heart; do not do that dishonesty; be not guilty of that cowardice; I am by your side."

Stopford Brooke, quoted in Edwin Hodder, A Book of Uncommon Prayers, Literary, Biographical, Historical, 1898. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Psalm 143:8

**ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, Vailima Prayers and Sabbath Morn, 1890.
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THE day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces, let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonoured, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep.

James Perkins Walker, The Altar at Home, 1862. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

OUR Father, we thank thee for thy protection during the night that is past, and ask thy blessing on the day that is to come.

Grant us the sense of thy presence to cheer, and thy light to direct us, and give us strength for thy service. And yet more, Father, give us thine own help and blessing in our sorrows, our faintness, our failure and sin. Thou knowest that we cannot bear our burdens alone.

We are only little children, and the world seems very dark to us, and our path very hard, if we are alone. But we are thy little children; and so we know we can come to our Father, to ask thee to help us, and enliven us, and strengthen us, and give us hope. We are not ashamed of our tears, for our Lord has wept with us.

We do not ask thee to take away our sorrow, for He was made perfect through suffering; but we do ask thee to be with us as thou wert with Him, our Father, close to thy little ones, even as he as promised us. *Amen.*

Samuel McComb, Prayers for today, with a series of meditations from modern writers, 1918. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

GIVE me, O God, my true place and work on earth. Listen not to my vain wish that leans so quickly to presumption, but give according to Thine own wise thought and love.

Choose not too large a place, lest I be brought to shame before Thee. Give not too small a place, lest I fail in that full measure of service which is due. Choose Thou and fit me to work which Thou shalt choose. Help me to have large ambitions of fidelity and a mind at peace in faith.

May I enjoy my work, knowing that strength and wisdom are of Thee and that Thou rejoicest in Thy child's joy. And may my life, spent in the way of Thine appointment, fit me for that place which Christ my Lord has gone to prepare. Amen.

John Habermann, Morning and Evening Prayers for All Days of the Week / Together With Confessional, Communion, and Other Prayers / and Hymns for Mornings and Evenings, and Other Occasions, 1918. Free download gutenberg.org

Oh, let us remember the obligations which rest upon us, and be filled with more continual gratitude to Thee, our great and unwearied Benefactor. May the experience of Thy goodness as to the things of time make us call upon Thee more earnestly for the blessings of eternity.

And now we beseech Thee take us, and all whom we should remember in our prayers, into Thy gracious keeping for the ensuing day. Guard us against our great spiritual enemy; succour us in every season of temptation; and enable us to live in Thy faith, and fear, and love, under a constant recollection of Thy presence, and with a continual desire of Thy favour. We ask all in the name and for the sake' of Jesus Christ our great Mediator and Advocate.

**Nicholas Tillinghast, Prayers for the Use of Schools, 1852. Not in
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Almighty God, our most merciful Father, we thank thee for the pleasant light of another day: We thank thee that we have been preserved through the darkness and the helplessness of another night; that thou, who never slumberest nor sleepest, hast kept watch over us, and hast assembled us once more together, to begin our course of daily duty: May it be begun and continued with an operating sense of thy presence, and with an earnest determination to do thy will.

While we thank thee for safety through hours of physical darkness, may we not forget to render thee our deepest gratitude, that while the world was lying in the shades of ignorance and error, and sunk deep in the valley of the shadow of death, thou didst cause thy Sun of Righteousness to arise, and to shed over the whole earth the light of thy Gospel. May we each seek in it a light to guide our respective paths, and may we each find that narrow path which leadeth to eternal life.

We thank thee, that thou hast not left us entirely ignorant of our future condition; but that, while we well know the power of sin here, we also know the way of escape, and the reward of virtue hereafter. Let thy blessing be with our friends, and with all for whom we should pray.

Wilt thou have mercy on the sinful, on the ignorant, and on the afflicted everywhere; may they be purified by thy holiness, enlightened by thy wisdom, and supported and strengthened by thy love; and may the knowledge of thee, and of thy Son, Jesus Christ, be shed abroad over the whole earth; until, from every part of it, shall arise to thee ascriptions of glory and honor, thanksgiving and praise, forever. Amen.

Mary Wilder Tileston, Great souls at prayer : fourteen centuries of prayer, praise and aspiration, from St. Augustine to Christina Rossetti and Robert Louis Stevenson, 1898. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

O THOU most holy and ever-loving God, we thank Thee once more for the quiet rest of the night that has gone by, for the new promise that has come with this fresh morning, and for the hope of this day.

While we have slept, the world in which we live has swept on in its awful space, great fires have burned under us, great waters have been all about us, and great storms above us; but Thou hast held them back by Thy strong hand, and we have rested under the shadow of Thy love.

The bird sat on the spray out in the darkness, the flower nestled in the grass, we lay down in our home, and all slept in the arms of God. The bird will trust Thee this day to give its morsel of meat, and the flower will trust Thee for its fresh raiment; so may we trust Thee this day for all the needs of the body, the soul, and the spirit. Give us this day our daily bread—Amen.

The young Christian's morning and evening prayers, 1835. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Grant that I may be humble and patient in my temper, kind and obliging to all around me. Help me to understand and enable me rightly to fulfill the duties of my station, and make me cheerfully resigned to whatever thou shalt think best for me. Conscious of the many errors I am continually committing, I would earnestly implore thy pardon for whatsoever I have done amiss. Give me unfeigned repentance towards thee, and saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John Habermann, Morning and Evening Prayers for All Days of the Week / Together With Confessional, Communion, and Other Prayers / and Hymns for Mornings and Evenings, and Other Occasions, 1918. Not in copyright. Free download gutenberg.org

O God, our Creator and our Father, who hast given unto us the gift of life, bless us this day as we go to the work which has been given unto us to do.

We give Thee thanks for our work, and for the health to do it. We thank Thee for skill of hand, for accuracy of eye and mind and brain, to earn a living and to do the work of a house and home. We thank Thee for the friends and the comrades whom Thou hast given to us, for those in whose company joys are doubly dear, and in whose presence sorrow's pain is soothed.

Help us today to be so cheerful, that it may make others happier to meet us. Help us to be so true to Thee, that we may be a strength to others who are tempted.

O Lord Jesus, we have begun the day with Thee; grant that Thy reflection may be upon us throughout all its hours. This we ask for Thy love's sake. AMEN.

Edwin Hodder, A Book of Uncommon Prayers, Literary, Biographical, Historical, 1898. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Blessed art Thou, O Lord. Our God The God of our Fathers; Who turnest the shadow of death into the morning, and renewest the face of the earth : Who rollest away the darkness from before the light, banishest night, and bringest back the day; Who lightenest mine eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death; Who deliverest me from the terror by night, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness: Who drivest sleep from mine eyes and slumber from mine eyelids;

Who makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice; because I laid me down and slept and awaked for the Lord sustained me; because I waked and beheld and my sleep was sweet unto me. Blot out as a thick cloud of night my transgressions and scatter as a morning cloud my sins.

Grant me to be a child of the light and of the day, to walk soberly, spotlessly, honestly as in the day. Vouchsafe to keep me this day without sin. Thou who upholdest the falling and liftest the fallen, let me not harden my heart in provocation or temptation, or deceitfulness of sin; Moreover deliver me this day from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence, from the arrow that flieth by day, from the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Defend this day against my evil, against the evil of this day defend Thou me. Let not my days be spent in vanity nor my years in sorrow. Day unto day uttereth speech: to-day some knowledge, or deed, unto yesterday; Cause me to hear Thy loving kindness in the morning for in Thee do I trust; Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk for I lift up my soul unto Thee. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies; I flee unto Thee to hide me. Teach me to do Thy will for Thou art my God; Thy Spirit is good, lead me into the land of uprightness.

Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy name's sake, for Thy righteousness sake, bring my soul out of trouble. Remove from me foolish imaginations, inspire those which are good and pleasing in Thy sight. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; let mine eyes look right on. And let mine eyelids look straight before me. Hedge up mine enemies with thorns lest they incline to undisciplined words. Give me early the ear to hear and open mine eyes to the instruction of Thine oracles.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth. Keep the door of my lips. Let my speech be seasoned with salt, that it may minister grace to the hearers. Let no deed be grief unto me nor offence of heart; Let me do some work for which Thou wilt remember me, Lord, for good, and spare me according to the multitude of Thy mercies.

Into Thy hands I commit my spirit, soul, and body which Thou hast created, redeemed, regenerated O Lord, Thou God of Truth, and together with me all mine, and all that belongs to me, Lord in Thy goodness preserve us from all evil, preserve our souls. I beseech Thee O Lord. Keep us from falling and present us faultless in the presence of Thy glory in that day. Preserve my going out and my coming in from this time forth and even for evermore. Prosper, I pray Thee, Thy servant this day and grant him mercy in the sight of those who meet him. O God make speed to save me ! O Lord make haste to help me!

O turn unto me and have mercy upon me. Give Thy strength unto Thy servant and save the son of Thy handmaid. Show me a token for good, that they who hate me may see it and be ashamed : because, Thou, Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.

Laurie Magnus, Prayers from the poets, 1899. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

The gloomy mantle of the night,
Which on my sinking spirit steals,
Will vanish at the morning light,
Which God, my East, my Sun, reveals.

Samuel Johnson, Prayers and Meditations, 1860. Not in copyright. Free download gutenberg.org, archive.org

EASTER DAY. After 12 at night.

The day is now begun, on which I hope to begin a new course, as from a starting point.

My hopes are from this time.
To rise early.

To waste less time.

To appropriate something to charity.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made, look down with pity upon my sinfulness and weakness. Strengthen, O Lord, my mind; deliver me from needless terrors; enable me to correct all inordinate desires, to eject all evil thoughts, to reform all sinful habits, and so to amend my life, that when at the end of my days Thou shalt call me hence, I may depart in peace, and be received into everlasting happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dr. Mark Depp, The Centenary pulpit : a collection of pastoral prayers, 1957. Public Domain. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Thou, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way; the path of prayer Thyself hath trod: Lord, teach us how to pray! Humbly, our Father, we make the words of the old hymn our petition this morning.

Sometimes how earnestly we pray for some things which we ought not to have and which certainly are far less than the best Thy holy and loving wisdom has for us; and then sometimes how indifferent we are to the things of greater value, pouring out our souls in desire for that which is second best and then unmindful and careless of those things which matter most.

John Paton, Church of Scotland, Prayers for sailors and fisher-folk, 1903. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

LORD our God, who art present every-where to hear and help us according to our need, dispose us at all times and in all places to trust in Thee. Cause us, even in the solitude of the ocean, to feel that Thou art not far from every one of us. And be graciously pleased to fulfil to us Thy word, that if we take the wings of the

morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead us, and Thy right hand shall hold us.

To Thy care and guidance, O heavenly Father, we commit ourselves, and all who are on board this ship, beseeching Thee to be our refuge and our strength, our very present help in trouble. Send favouring winds, and grant that, by Thy goodness, we may in due season reach in safety our appointed haven. O Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, be Thou our hiding-place from the wind and covert from the tempest, so that, whatever dangers may surround us, our hearts and minds may be kept in perfect peace.

Bestow Thy blessing on our relatives and friends at home. Grant that they may prosper in all things, and be in health; above all, that their souls may prosper.

God of all grace, who hast blessed us hither to, we humbly beseech Thee to bless us still. Uphold us by Thy power. Direct us by Thy wisdom. Sanctify us more and more by Thy grace. Deliver us from all the snares and temptations to which we are exposed; so that, having ended the voyage of life in peace, we may come at last to that heavenly kingdom which Thou hast prepared for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom be all honour and glory for ever and ever.

William Barclay A Book Of Everyday Prayers, 1959. Copyright owner Harper & Brothers, Publishers. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

O God, our Father, who hast bidden us to live in fellowship with one another, keep us from everything which would make us difficult to live with today.

Help us never thoughtlessly or deliberately to speak in such a way that we would hurt another's feelings, or wound another's heart.

Keep us from all impatience, from all irritability, and from a temper which is too quick. Keep us from eyes which are focused to find fault and from a tongue which is tuned to criticize.

Keep us from being touchy, and quick to take offence, and slow to forget it. Help us not to be stubborn and obstinate, and keep us from the selfishness which can see nothing but its own point of view, and which wants nothing but its own way.

Grant unto us all through this day something of the grace and beauty which shone upon our blessed Lord.

Hear this our prayer, for Thy love's sake. AMEN.

John S Hoyland, A Book of prayers written for use in an Indian College, 1921. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

THANKS FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD.

Creator of all joy and all beauty,
We bless thee this morning for thy bright world,
For the sunshine on the hills,
For the mists on the rivers,
For bird and beast, mountain, plain and forest,
All giving glory to thee in the radiance of the new dawn.
We thank thee that (if we abide in thee)
We may look, as thou lookest,
Upon all the beauty of the earth.
We thank thee that we may listen as thou listenest this morning
To its songs of praise, its melody of joyful thanksgiving
Both vocal and silent.
O Master, lover of beauty and joy,
Make our hearts simple and trustful,
That we may think with thee thine eternal thoughts,
Thy wise childlike thoughts,
Whereby the worlds are upheld.
Make our wills lowly and pure,
That we may share in thy will

Whereby is created and upheld
All the joy and the beauty
Of this thy great universe.

**Edward Leigh Pell, Prayers We Love To Pray. 1909. Free download
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WARM my cold heart, Lord, I beseech Thee. Take away all that hinders me from giving myself to Thee. Mould me according to Thine own image. Give me grace to obey Thee in all things, and ever to follow Thy gracious leading. Make me this day to be kind to my fellowmen, to be gentle and unselfish, careful to hurt no one by word or deed, but anxious to do good to all, and to make others happy.

O Lord, forgive the sins of my temper. Pardon all my hasty words and unchristian thoughts. Make me watchful, that I offend not with my tongue- Give me a meek and loving spirit, which is in Thy sight of great price. I would not live unto myself, but unto Thee. Keep me from sin this day, and all that may offend Thee; for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

**Edward Leigh Pell, Prayers We Love To Pray. 1909. Free download
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WE would cast all our cares on Thee, knowing and rejoicing that Thou carest for us in a way and measure that the nearest and fondest on earth knows nothing of. Seeing Thou hast loved us with such an overflowing and everlasting love, may we love Thee better in return; may we not requite Thee with coldness and unthankfulness.

May the best of our thoughts, and the best of our lives, and the best of our time, be surrendered freely to Thee. Let us trust in Thee in everything; let us see Thy faithfulness in every event in our chequered and changing histories.

Be Thou with us throughout this day; sanctify all its duties; go with us where we go, dwell with us where we dwell; may we pitch our tent ever near Thyself, and then we shall be safe. Hear us, gracious God, and accept of us for the Redeemer's sake— Amen.

Mary Wilder Tileston, Prayers Ancient and Modern, 1897. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

BLESSED art Thou, O Lord, our God, the God of our fathers, Who turnest the shadow of death into the morning; Who hast lightened mine eyes, that I sleep not in death. O Lord, blot out as a night-mist mine iniquities. Scatter my sins as a morning cloud. Grant that I may become a child of the light, and of the day. Vouchsafe to keep me this day without sin. Uphold me when I am falling, and lift me up when I am down. Preserve this day from any evil of mine and me from the evils of the day. Let this day add some knowledge, or good deed, to yesterday. O, let me hear of Thy loving-kindness in the morning, for in Thee is my trust. Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art my God. Let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness—Amen.

Thomas Becon, Writings of the Rev. Thomas Becon, 1840. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

O Heavenly Father, who like a diligent watchman attendest always upon thy faithful people, whether they wake or sleep, and mightily defendest them; not only from Satan, that old enemy of mankind, but also from all other their adversaries, so that through thy godly power they are preserved harmless—I most heartily thank thee that it hath pleased thy fatherly goodness so to take care of me, thine unprofitable servant, this night past; that thou hast both safely kept me from all mine enemies, and

also hast given me sweet sleep unto the great comfort of my body.

I most entirely beseech thee, O most merciful Father, to show the like kindness towards me this day, in preserving my body and soul, that my enemies may have no power over me, and that I, likewise, may neither think, breathe, speak, or do anything that may be displeasing to thy fatherly goodness, dangerous to myself, or hurtful to my neighbour; but that all my enterprises may be agreeable to thy most blessed will, which is always good and godly, doing that which may advance thy glory, answer to my vocation, and profit my neighbour, whom I ought to love as myself; that whensoever thou callest me from this vale of misery, I may be found the child, not of darkness, but of light, and so for ever reign with thee in glory, who art the true and everlasting light. To whom, with thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, and the Holy Ghost, that most sweet Comforter, be all honour and glory. Amen.

Whitmarsh, Caroline Snowden, Prayers of the ages, 1868. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the return of this morning, and for the renewal of our daily blessings. We love to feel that we are always surrounded by Thee, and that the blessings of each day are the gifts of Thy providence. We love to feel that Thou art coming to us in the joy and freshness of the morning, in the serenity and peace of the evening, in the love of our loved ones, in the happiness of our home, in the discipline of daily experience, and in all things which make us glad, and strong, and heavenly-minded.

And now, before entering upon the labors and trials of this day, we meet together that we may think how real and earnest life should be; how innocently and actively we should enter into it, and how much we need Thy guidance, even when we cannot think of Thee. O Lord, how often have we felt that we would be more obedient to all Thy commands! How often have we said

within ourselves, "This day we will not sin ; we will be kind, and just, and patient, and affectionate all day, and lie down at night without a regretful memory!" But alas! as the excitements of duty or pleasure come upon us, we grow anxious and restless, or forgetful and frivolous, and find at the close of the day that we are careful and troubled about many things, and that we have not yet found that "good part" which cannot thus be taken away from us.

Our Heavenly Father, we now come to Thee with no confidence in our own strength, and pray that Thou wilt help us. Let Thy grace be sufficient for us. Come to us many times this day, in holy thought and reverent feeling, and thus keep us near Thee, even in our forgetfulness. May all that is beautiful remind us of Thee, the Infinite Beauty. May all that is lovely remind us of Thee, the One altogether lovely. May all that is true lead us to Thee, the Source of all truth. O send us not from Thy presence unblessed ; but breathe Thy loving Spirit upon us all before we take up the burden of our daily duty, that we may go on our way rejoicing, and the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts may be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Whitmarsh, Caroline Snowden, Prayers of the ages, 1868. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

ALMIGHTY God, our Father and Preserver, who hast watched over us during the darkness, and made us glad with the light of this day, grant that we may employ it in Thy most holy service; and even as Thou sheddest now the beams of the sun upon the earth, to give light unto our bodies, so illumine our souls with the brightness of Thy Spirit, to guide us in the paths of Thy righteousness. Amen.

**Whitmarsh, Caroline Snowden, Prayers of the ages, 1868. Not in
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That we may be good Soldiers of Christ.

LORD Almighty, who art merciful and gracious, long suffering and of great goodness, we approach Thee as the God of mercy, imploring Thee to hear these our prayers, and to pardon the multitude of our sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Day after day we add to the number of our transgressions ; every night we have the sins of the preceding day to repent of; and every morning we have reason to fear lest we should again yield to temptation, and return to our former iniquities. We pray, therefore, for Thy persevering and protecting grace. O Lord, put Thy spirit into all our hearts; that we, being made pure and holy in our secret thoughts, may not fail to perform all that is good and acceptable in Thy sight.

Dispose each of us on this day habitually to employ our several faculties in Thy service. While we pursue the various duties of our calling, may we have a single eye to Thy glory; and may we undertake no employment on which we cannot hope for Thy blessing.

And give us such a portion of Thy grace, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may desire to do not only that which is in some degree beneficial, but that which is most excellent and most extensively useful. May no spirit of self-indulgence, no love of ease, no dread of opposition, no fear of shame, prevent our laying out our lives heartily in Thy service. Make us willing in all respects to deny ourselves, that we may live unto Thee. Teach us to enter into the spirit of those Christians and Apostles of old, who counted not their lives dear unto themselves, so that they might finish their course with joy: and who rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ; who, living in unity and godly love, were seen striving together for the faith of the Gospel, in nothing terrified by their adversaries.

Grant unto every member of this family Thy peace, and all Thy heavenly consolations; and make us to be of one heart and one mind, praising Thee for Thy mercies, praying to Thee for Thy grace, and uniting in the confession of our daily sins before Thee.

Establish us in Thy faith, and fear, and love; and enlighten us, that we may understand Thy whole will concerning us. Where we mistake, have pity on our errors: and if we have wandered from the right way, do Thou in mercy bring us back. Lead us, O Lord, into the paths of righteousness and peace. And if we have in any measure attained to the knowledge of Thy truth, may we bring our faith into active exercise.

May we watch our hearts, and bridle our tongues, and govern our tempers. May we be ready to forgive, even as we hope to be forgiven. May we be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor shall not be in vain in the Lord.

We now commit ourselves to Thee for this day: help us to live according to these our prayers; and thus may we be prepared for Thy heavenly kingdom : we ask it for our Saviour's sake. Amen.

James Perkins Walker, The Altar at Home, 1862. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

O FATHER, this day may bring some hard task to our life, or some hard trial to our love. We may grow weary, or sad, or hopeless in our lot. But, Father, our whole life until now has been one great proof of Thy care. Bread has come for our body, thoughts to our mind, love to our heart, and all from Thee.

So help us, we implore Thee, while we stand still on this side of all that the day may bring, to resolve that we will trust Thee this day to shine into any gloom of the mind, to stand by us in any trial of our love, and to give us rest in Thy good time as we need. May this day be full of a power that shall bring us near to Thee, and make us more like Thee; and, O God, may we so trust Thee

this day, that, when the day is done, our trust shall be firmer than ever. Then, when our last day comes, and our work is done, may we trust Thee in death and forever, in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

William Wilberforce, Family Prayers, 1836. Not in copyright. Free download gutenberg.org, archive.org, books.google.com

Let us pray. O Thou great and glorious God, our Creator, Preserver, and continual Benefactor, to Thee would we lift up our souls. We thank Thee for the mercies of the past night, and that Thou hast preserved us in peace and safety to see the light of another day. And now, we beseech Thee, mercifully look upon us, and lift up the light of Thy countenance, and have mercy upon us.

Lord, we confess with sorrow of heart that we are not worthy in ourselves of the very least of all Thy mercies. But, blessed be Thy name, Thou hast graciously assured us that Thou art willing to pardon our sins if we come to Thee as penitent believers in Jesus Christ. To Thee, therefore, we humbly come, we cast ourselves upon the riches of Thy grace, we humbly pray that the atoning blood of Christ may wash away all our corruptions, and that Thy Holy Spirit may be given us, to deliver us from the power of sin and Satan, and to bring us into the full enjoyment of the glorious liberty of the children of God.

O merciful Father, grant us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit in larger measure; enable us to know what is the hope of Thy calling, and what the riches of the glory of Thine inheritance in the saints. May we learn to have a suitable value for those blessed things which Thou offerest to our acceptance.

May we never trifle in the great work of our salvation. May we strive more and more to enter in at the strait gate, or if we have reason to hope that we are now walking in the narrow way of life, Oh, may we press forward in it with increasing earnestness.

May we grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. And grant, Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may learn to have our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows, all grounded on Thy holy word, that we may learn to love what Thou lovest, and to hate that which Thou hatest.

May we put aside all selfishness, be kind, generous, and forgiving. May we learn that self-denial which our Saviour enforces upon us, declaring that if any man will come after Him, he must take up his cross daily. Lord, may we be striving to tread in Thy steps. We know our own great weakness and utter insufficiency, but, blessed be Thy name, Thou hast declared that Thou wilt give Thy Holy Spirit to them that ask it. We call upon Thee, therefore, with earnestness and confidence, with an assured hope of Thy merciful loving-kindness, and continual truth.

Oh, let not the frequent and regular recurrence of Thy mercies lead us to forget that it is to Thy goodness we owe them all. Let us live under a continual sense of the mercies which we are receiving from Thee, and, above all, may we be thankful for that transcendent instance of them, the sending Thine own Son to die for us men, and for our salvation.

And now, we beseech Thee, take us, and all whom we should remember in our prayers, into Thy gracious keeping for the ensuing day. Guard us and them against our great spiritual enemy; succour us in every season of temptation; enable us this day to live in Thy faith, and fear, and love, under a continual recollection of Thy presence, and with a constant desire of Thy glory.

These and all other blessings we humbly ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Whitmarsh, Caroline Snowden, Prayers of the ages, 1868. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

God, our Heavenly Father, quicken in us, we beseech Thee, every good and pure thought, and strengthen us in our devout resolves this day. Let no unhallowed words pollute the tongues which Thou hast made to praise and bless Thee; no evil action defile the sanctuaries which Thou hast, in Thy wondrous mercy, chosen for Thyself.

Remove whatever in us may be a hindrance to holy living, or a stumbling-block in another's way. May our trust in Thee, and our kindness to one another, never fail. May we bring to Thee, not only a humble spirit of obedience, but also great love. O Lord God, make us what Thou wouldest have us to be, and may we do what Thou wouldest have us to do: only be Thou ever with us to cleanse and renew, to teach, rule, and sustain us; till at last we come to Thee, to dwell forever with Thee and Thy saints in light. Amen.

Ashton Oxenden, Family Prayers, First Series, 1901. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

GOD, Who hast spared our lives, and brought us to the beginning of another day, we lift up our hearts to Thee. We thank Thee for rest during the past night, for life preserved, and strength renewed, and for the many tokens of Thy loving-kindness which surround us.

We thank Thee also for our religious privileges; especially for Thy Sabbath, with its precious opportunities of instruction.

We pray that the truths which we heard on Thy holy day may influence us throughout the week. May we thus become more wise, more earnest, more spiritually minded.

And now, O Lord, prepare us for the duties and trials which lie before us. Whatever we have to do, may we do it willingly and heartily, as unto Thee, and not as unto men. Show us our

besetting sins, and grant that we may watch and fight against them. Give us grace to take up, each one of us, our peculiar cross, whatever it may be, to exercise constant self-denial, and in all things to follow our Master, Christ.

If we should be tempted this day to impatience and anger, enable us to remember Him, Who when He was reviled, reviled not again, when He suffered threatened not. Give us more of the mind which was in Christ Jesus. Make us more like Him in lowliness and meekness. Make us kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another ; ready to bear each other's burdens, and so to fulfil the law of Christ.

Let not the world with its cares and vanities fill our hearts this day, and so make us forget the worth of our souls, the love of our Saviour, and the nearness of eternity. Whilst we are busy in the world, may our hearts rise above it.

May Thy Holy Spirit continually quicken and guide, cleanse and sanctify us. May He work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. May He implant within us pure desires and heavenly affections, and teach our tongues to speak Thy praise.

Make us, O God, a blessing to one another; help us to strengthen one another's faith, and to assist one another in the way to heaven. Be with our absent relatives and friends, and bring them all to the saving knowledge of Christ.

Lord, watch over us, and all who are dear to us, this day. Defend our souls from the assaults of the wicked one, and preserve our bodies in health and safety. O let nothing draw our hearts from Thee. May all Thy wise and merciful dealings bind us more closely to Thee, and fit us better for Thy service. May we walk in the light of Thy countenance, and know the happiness of those who have the Lord for their God. Hear us, Heavenly-Father, and when Thou hearest forgive, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

John S Hoyland, A Book of prayers written for use in an Indian College, 1921. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Give us, O God, the power to go on,
To carry our share of thy burden through to the end,
To live all the years of our life
Faithful to the highest that we have seen,
With no panderings to the second-best,
No leniency to our own lower selves,
No looking backward,
No cowardice.
Give us the power to give ourselves,
To break the bread of our lives unto starving humanity,
In humble self-subjection to serve others,
As thou, O God, dost serve thy world.

James Perkins Walker, The Altar at Home, 1862. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

ETERNAL God, to whom our mortal years are but a span, — Author and Sustainer of our being, — with a solemn sense of the great mystery of life, we would welcome this new day as a gift from thee. And while we rejoice in the anticipations with which we are permitted to look forward to its hours, we would realize also the uncertainty of all, as we remember how frail we are. Even the bright return of morning reminds us of the rapidity of time and change.

Yet, O thou God of infinite love, we thank thee that this solemn thought is not a thought of gloom, but that, though we are indeed like the grass of the field in our frailty and the insecurity of our days, yet, amid all the uncertainty, there is something sure. Though the grass withereth and the flower fadeth, the word of the Lord abideth forever.

To that enduring word, O God, we turn. It gives us a promise of a life that knows no blight nor change. It tells us of heaven, and of thy unfailing love. It speaks to us of Jesus, the Way and Guide to

thee. O, may the thought of these blessed realities sanctify the hours of this present day.

And while we consider the shortness of our lives, may we be mindful of the preciousness of every passing moment. May we remember that every hour brings its sacred responsibilities, and opens to us its holy uses and ways of attaining eternal good. O grant that we may be faithful to them all. Let it not be that we shall any longer turn a deaf ear to the voice which calls us to glory and immortality.

May we so live, with our lamps trimmed and burning, that, whenever the Bridegroom-cometh, we shall meet him with joy; and may these days of our earthly life, however few they are, be rich in those imperishable fruits which shall abide with us forever.

Father, hear us in this our prayer, and keep us in thy fear, through thine infinite mercy, revealed to us in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Laurie Magnus, Prayers from the poets, 1899. Not in copyright. Free download books.google.com, archive.org

Only, O Lord, in Thy dear love,
Fit us for perfect Rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.